

Tree Board
October 24, 2022

Attending: Kristin Youngquist, Beautie Moore, Lisa Thomas-Cutts, Jeremy Cummings, Tannis Danley and Catherine Trotter

Old Business:

Open Positions – Residential and Environmental

- Kristin noted Blake Potter was interested in filling the Environmental position on the Board. His work at Ft. Benning qualifies him to serve.
- Catherine mentioned a call to Morgan Scarbrough to fill the residential building position is pending.
- Kristin rolls off the Board in December, but she will move into the Education position. Catherine has agreed to serve another term.

New Business:

Tree Master Plan

- Kristin has successfully converted the 2004 Master Plan into Word and PDF formats. This will allow the Board to more easily review the plan which needs to be done annually. Kristian has access to current pictures and maps that can replace the outdated ones in the Plan.
- Sections of the Plan that particularly need updating are: Community Input, Existing Conditions and Columbus TIP Projects. The tree planting section and planting Priorities sections will need Eric's input.
- It was noted that the area along Golden Park and Victory Drive has had tree growth due to the priorities set in the 2004 Plan.
- Kristin shared 2015 Tree Canopy data with the Board. Jeremy pointed out this information has changed significantly since the storm a few years ago that resulted in dramatic tree loss near the Harris County border. Additionally, there have been several new commercial and residential developments that have built since 2015.

- Kristin will email the newly formatted Plan to all Board members. The following schedule for review was confirmed: November 7th – Introduction, November 14th – Tree Selection and Planting, December 5th – Implementation, January 9th – Existing Conditions, January 16th – Planting Priorities. An in-person meeting is planned for November 30th to review the Master Plan updates.

Arborist Update

- The entire Board agreed the Arborist position has been vacant so long that it needs to be addressed by the Consolidated Government.
- Jeremy mentioned he has a meeting with City officials planned in November. He said he would bring-up the Arborist position at that time noting that finding someone to fill that position should be a priority.

The next Board meeting will be January 30th.